

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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Linoleic acid is converted into  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid by the enzyme  $\Delta 6$ -desaturase. The present invention is directed to isolated nucleic acids comprising the  $\Delta 6$ -desaturase gene. More particularly, the isolated nucleic acid comprises the promoter, coding region and termination regions of the  $\Delta 6$ -desaturase gene. The present invention provides recombinant constructions comprising the  $\Delta 6$ -desaturase coding region in functional combination with heterologous regulatory sequences. The nucleic acids and recombinant constructions of the instant invention are useful in the production of GLA in transgenic organisms.

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